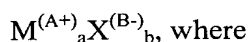


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A process for producing polyurethanes comprising reacting at least one polyisocyanate with at least one compound containing at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein the compound containing at least two active hydrogen atoms comprises at least one polyether alcohol prepared by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional initiator substances by means of multimetal cyanide catalysis and wherein the reaction of the alkylene oxides onto the H-functional initiator substances is carried out in the presence of at least one metal salt of the formula



M is selected from at least one of  $Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Rb^+$ ,  $Cs^+$ ,  $Be^{2+}$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$ ,  $Sr^{2+}$ , and  $Ba^{2+}$ ,

X is selected from at least one of  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $ClO^-$ ,  $ClO_3^-$ ,  $ClO_4^-$ ,  $Br^-$ ,  $I^-$ ,  $IO_3^-$ ,  $CN^-$ ,  $OCN^-$ ,  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $S^{2-}$ ,  $SH^-$ ,  $HSO_3^-$ ,  $SO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HSO_4^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_2^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_3^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_4^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_5^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_6^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_7^{2-}$ ,  $S_2O_8^{2-}$ ,  $H_2PO_2^-$ ,  $H_2PO_4^-$ ,  $HPO_4^{2-}$ ,  $PO_4^{3-}$ ,  $P_2O_7^{4-}$ ,  $(C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-$ ,  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$  and their mixed salts and mixtures,

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the metal salt is electrically neutral.

2. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt  $M^{(A+)}_a X^{(B-)}_b$  is selected such that:

$M^{(A+)} = Li^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ , or  $Ca^{2+}$ , and

$X^{(B^-)} = F^-, Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, NO_3^-, HCO_3^-, CO_3^{2-}, HSO_4^-, SO_4^{2-}, H_2PO_4^-, HPO_4^{2-}, PO_4^{3-}, (C_nH_{2n-1}O_2)^-,$  or  $(C_{n+1}H_{2n-2}O_4)^{2-}$  where  $n = 1-20$

and their mixed salts and mixtures, where

$A^+$  is the valence of the cation,

$B^-$  is the valence of the anion and

a and b are integers,

with the proviso that the metal salt is electrically neutral.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein the metal salt is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 ppm, based on the compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A flexible polyurethane foam produced according to any one of the processes as claimed in claims 1 or 2.

Claims 8-16 (Canceled)